



Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) Family Support Group (FSG). The Family Support Group is not a new concept, just new to our command.

What is AR-PERSCOM - the Big Picture?

- o AR-PERSCOM Mission:* To provide the highest quality personnel life cycle management and services resulting in a trained and ready force in support of the National Military Strategy.
- o AR-PERSCOM Vision:* Precision Military Human Resource Management @ Speed of Electrons.
- o AR-PERSCOM Purpose:* Right Soldier. Right Place. Right Time.

Always@YourService

What is AR-PERSCOM FSG - the Big Picture?

- o Purpose:* To serve AR-PERSCOM soldiers and their families.
- o Vision:* Willing, Able, and Ready.
- o Mission:* Ensure soldier preparedness and family self-reliance.
- o Values:* The Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Our key value is Duty (fulfilling obligations not just at work but also at home).
- o Mission Essential Task List (METL) Key Family Requirements (KFR)*
 - Telephone Tree
 - Newsletter
 - Family Sponsorship
 - Training



Your FSG Organization

HHC Commander -- CPT John Manning
Telephone Tree -- SFC Charlotte Shaw
Newsletter -- Tracy Schmidt
Family Sponsorship -- SSG Jodi Johnson
Training -- SFC Charlotte Shaw
Finance Manager -- CPT Paula Barfield

What is an FSG anyway?

The purpose and mission of a generic FSG is to establish a network that enables family members to effectively gather information, resolve problems, maintain mutual support and foster self-reliance.

The AR-PERSCOM FSG is for all personnel (military and civilian) who work at AR-PERSCOM or tenant activities and their families. Everyone is automatically a member. There are no dues. Involvement is highly encouraged but definitely voluntary.

'Hey, sir, why do we need a Family Support Group since we never deploy?'

Unfortunately, many people associate the FSG with "deployment." Although AR-PERSCOM soldiers are usually not deployed, it is important to have an active FSG to help create an atmosphere of mutual caring and concern among soldiers and their families, encourage soldier preparedness and family self-reliance, enhance unit cohesion and increase unit morale. In some ways, because of our remote location and LIMITED access to typical military support activities, AR-PERSCOM needs a Family Support Group as much, if not more, than the regularly mobilizing and deploying units.

So what does an FSG do?

It may be easier to say what an FSG is *not* first, since guidelines are provided in A Guide to Establishing Family Support Groups (DA Pam 608-47). Activities not suggested for FSG involvement include "becoming surrogate parents, social workers, babysitting or errand services." FSGs do not lend money or expensive





items. The Telephone Tree and Newsletter is for FSG purposes, not for personal solicitations.

With that in mind, what can an FSG do? Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA Pam) 608-47 gives several ideas. FSGs can arrange workshops to improve the lives of its members; e.g., stress reduction, military benefits; family sponsorship; and other programs appropriate for the needs of the FSG. The FSG can also organize parties, outings, and fun things to bring members together.

So, where are we now?

In the Army terminology of "crawl, walk, run;" the FSG is definitely in the "crawl" stage. The second newsletter will include a survey for members to fill out to help build on a working business plan, develop goals and begin planning activities which will be fun and informative for the AR-PERSCOM family.

You can now e-mail address changes to DEERS

Individuals with access to the Internet can now e-mail address changes -- including address changes for geographically separated family members -- to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. The e-mail address for DEERS is (addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil).

DEERS recommends using all lower-case letters when typing the e-mail address. E-mail messages should include the following information: (1) Sponsor's name and Social Security number; (2) The address change you desire; (3) Names of other family members affected by the address change; (4) Effective date of the address information; (5) A telephone number and area code to reach the sender. Other information, such as addresses for geographically separated family members, will be processed if you provided. The e-mail address is an alternative for updating mailing addresses. Other ways to update your records in DEERS include:

- o Initiating a request through your nearest military personnel office;
- o Calling the DEERS Support Office at one of its toll-free numbers:
 - o 1-800-334-4162 (California only);
 - o 1-800-527-5602 (Alaska and Hawaii);
 - o 1-800-538-9552 (all other states).
- o FAXing address changes to (408) 655-8317; Mailing the address-change information to the DEERS Support Office.

Some Important AR-PERSCOM Phone Numbers

- o Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Family Support Group Office: 592-0708.
 - o Staff Duty Officer/NCO: 592-0707.
 - o Employee & Soldier Assistance Center: 592-0507 (help with alcoholism, family problems, marital difficulties, financial trouble, stress, drugs, and depression.
- Inclement Weather: 592-1111 (after 4:30 a.m.)

Next Newsletter

The plan is to send out a newsletter bi-monthly so expect to see No. 2 in February.

Proponent

The proponent for this publication is Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), AR-PERSCOM. Comments should be forwarded to AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-ZHC (FSG), 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

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